TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 18, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 13, totaled 19.4 billion ton-miles, up 2.2 percent from the 19.0 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 32 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 608.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.6 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 13 totaled 430,222, up 1.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.0 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were down 0.8 percent in the East, but up 4.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of metallic ores were up 4,142 cars (25.2 percent); coal increased by 1,825 cars (1.4 percent); but grain was down 2,594 cars (8.7 percent). Twelve of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended August 6 totaled 113,024 trailers and/or containers, up 6.5 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 31 weeks of the year was 3,366,388 trailers and/or containers, up 5.5 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/13/88:

	Loadings in Week ended August 13, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,087	D	2,594	8.7	D	2,116	7.2
Other farm products	2,548	D	154	5.7	I	96	3.9
Metallic ores	20,584	I	4,142	25.2	I	1,191	6.1
Coal	128,781	I	1,825	1.4	I	4,321	3.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,011	I	54	0.3	I	129	0.7
Nonmetallic minerals	10,954	I	997	10.0	I	1	0.009
Grain mill products	10,224	D	579	5.4	D	274	2.6
Food and kindred products	10,925	D	145	1.3	D	61	0.6
Primary forest products	9,833	D	773	7.3	I	295	3.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,726	D	1,251	15.7	I	253	3.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,060	D	227	1.8	I	52	0.4
Chemicals and allied products	27,657	I	852	3.2	I	52	0.2
Petroleum products	5,500	I	129	2.4	D	6	0.1
Stone, clay and glass products	11,356	I	156	1.4	D	90	0.8
Coke	5,678	I	524	10.2	D	349	5.8
Metals and products	9,567	I	65	0.7	D	779	7.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,133	I	762	5.0	I	694	4.5
Waste and scrap materials	9,989	I	1,045	11.7	I	444	4.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,399	D	595	19.9	D	149	5.8
All other carloads	83,210	I	3,043	3.8	I	733	0.9
Total Cars Loaded	430,222	I	7,276	1.7	I	4,437	1.0
Corresponding week of 1987	422,946						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (32 weeks)	13,450,483	12,730,904	I 5.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
31 weeks ended August 6	588.7	546.4	I 7.7
Week ended August 13	19.4	19.0	I 2.2
32 Weeks cumulative	608.2	565.5	I 7.6

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